

App. No. 09/917,261
Response Dated August 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 7-17 are currently pending in the application. Claims 7-12 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,664,098 issued to *Bianchi et al.* Claims 13-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected independent Claim 7 by citing a procedure described in *Bianchi et al.* for validating security. The Office Actions cites *Bianchi et al.* (col. 63, lines 11-59, col. 11, lines 5-38, and col. 12, lines 43-64) to show that Claim 7 is anticipated. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The application generally discloses a system and method for replicating each of a set of resources to a subject computer in a replica set prior to making use of a resource in the set of resources. The set of resources includes resources that are dependent upon each other for a proper functioning of the group. A manifest file that identifies each resource in a group of interrelated resources is used. The manifest file is generated at one computer in the replica set. When the modification occurs to one of the set of resources, the manifest file is transmitted to each computer in the replica set. The manifest file includes an indicator that identifies the manifest file as a special file. When received at another computer in the replica set, a file replication service (FRS) evaluates the manifest file to identify whether the appropriate versions of the identified resources exist at the receiving computer. If not, the FRS at that computer awaits the receipt of each resource. The wait period may include delaying the execution of an application associated with the manifest file from launching.

Specifically, Claim 7 recites a "data structure comprising: a first field identifying the data structure as a special data structure; and a second field identifying a plurality of resources, at least two of the plurality of resources being necessary for a proper functioning of the plurality of resources, wherein, in response to determining that the data structure is a special data structure based on the information stored in the first field, a service determines whether each of the

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plurality of resources exists on the computer-readable medium, and if not, delays access to the plurality of resources.”

Bianchi et al. does not teach the limitations of Claim 7. Specifically, *Bianchi et al.* does not teach “a service [that] determines whether each of the plurality of resources exists on the computer-readable medium, and if not, delays access to the plurality of resources.” *Bianchi et al.* teaches a profile record that includes a field that indicates if the user is authorized to execute dual decor commands and functions. (col. 11, lines 15-19) *Bianchi et al.* also teaches a user login procedure where a user table contains a unique description of a dual decor user in order to prevent unauthorized access to data structures that are accessible to the user. (col. 12, lines 51-57) *Bianchi et al.* further teaches performing user security validation when a user requests access to a system using dual decor commands to determine that the user is a trusted user. (col. 63, lines 46-59) None of these teachings of *Bianchi et al.* could be construed to anticipate or make obvious Applicants’ Claim 7 because the cited reference does not include any information about “a service that determines whether each of the plurality of resources exists on the computer-readable medium, and if not, delays access to the plurality of resources.” Thus, Claim 7 is allowable and notice to that effect is solicited.

As discussed above, independent Claim 7 is allowable. Thus, dependent Claims 8-17 are allowable for at least the same reasons that the base claim on which they rely is allowable, and notice to that effect is solicited.

Claims 7-17 were previously allowed in the Office Action dated September 24, 2003. Applicants cancelled Claims 1-6 and 18-20 and filed the cancelled claims as a continuation application. A request for continued examination was filed such that Claims 7-17 would be allowed. However, the Office Action cited *Bianchi et al.* to reject Claims 7-12 even though *Bianchi et al.* does not disclose all the limitations recited in Claim 7.

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In view of the foregoing remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Timothy P. Sullivan
Registration No. 47,981
Direct Dial: 206.342.6254

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200
JJF/ab

